Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/785,200	HAUVILLE, FRANCOIS P.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Krishnan S. Menon	1723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *RCE, 4/26/07*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1,4-9,13-15 and 17-22; RENUMBERED 1-16*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Foster on 5/8/07.

The application has been amended as follows: An amended claims list follows on a fresh page below.

Claims 1,4-9,13-15 and 17-22 are allowed.

The closest reference is the French Patent FR 2 803 534, and as argued by the applicant, the present claims recite an improvement over the French patent, which makes the individual filter modules stackable and can be varied in number to change the capacity of the assembly, which is found novel and unobvious compared to the prior arts.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid filtration assembly comprising a selected number of filtration modules, each of said modules comprising a planar filter unit and first and second housing members ~~connectable~~ connected together to form an open-sided recess ~~to receive~~ receiving said filter unit edge-wise of said filter unit, each of said housing members being provided with a collection chamber having first and second opening structures aligned with each other, and a wall portion extending outwardly from the chamber and defining one wall of the recess when said housing members are connected together, the one wall being spaced from said filter unit, wherein one of the first and second opening structures are each ~~adapted~~ configured to serve as a fluid inlet, the walls permitting fluid flow therebetween and through said filter unit, the other of the first and second openings structures each being ~~further adapted~~ configured to serve as a fluid outlet;

wherein said filtration module housing members are of substantially L-shaped configuration and are ~~connectable~~ connected to each other by interconnection of pairs of the opening structures in reversed, head-to-tail configuration, to form the recess which is ~~adapted~~ configured to receive said filter unit to form one of the filtration modules; and

said one filtration module is ~~adapted~~ configured for connection to and release from at least one additional filtration module by interconnection of selected ones of the opening structures to change capacity of the filtration assembly.

2. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The assembly in accordance with claim 1, wherein each of said housing members is provided with a spring mechanisms to assist in separation of said housing members from adjacent elements.

5. (Currently Amended) The assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein said housing members are fitted with springs between which the filter units are slidably inserted ~~insertable~~.

6. (Previously Presented) The assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein one of said housing members, when said housing members are assembled to form a filtration module, directs inflow of the fluid to be treated towards said filter unit, while the other of said housing members directs treated fluid to outside of said filtration module.

7. (Previously Presented) The assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein each of said housing members is provided with one of said opening structures which collects inflow of fluid and a further of said opening structures which directs outflow of fluid, thus allowing input of fluids to be treated, and output of treated fluids, the capacity of the assembly depending upon the selected number of said filtration modules disposed in the assembly.

8. (Previously Presented) The assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein output of fluids treated is rendered variable by selection of the number of said filtration modules in the assembly, the number being changeable by at least one filtration module by addition to and removal thereof from the assembly.

9. (Currently Amended) A fluid filtration assembly comprising:

a selected number of filtration modules, each one of said modules comprising:

a planar filter unit;

a first housing member comprising a first collection chamber in communication with a first wall extending therefrom, said first housing member having a first fluid inlet structure and a first fluid outlet structure, respectively, in opposed walls of said first collection chamber and in alignment with each other;

a second housing member comprising a second collection chamber in communication with a second wall extending therefrom, said second housing member having a second fluid inlet structure and a second fluid outlet structure, respectively, in opposed walls of said second collection chamber and in alignment with each other;

said first and second collection chambers and the first and second walls defining an open-sided recess ~~for~~ slidably receiving and retaining said ~~a~~ filter unit edge-wise of said filter unit;

wherein one of the fluid inlet~~s~~ structures is open to receive fluid flow and one of the fluid outlet~~s~~ structures is open to discharge filtered fluid,

wherein the received fluid flows through one of said collection chambers, along one of the walls, through the filter unit, along the other of the walls, through the other of said collection chambers, and out of the module through the fluid outlet structure to discharge fluid; and

wherein said first and second housing members are of a substantially L-shaped configuration and are ~~connectable~~ connected together in inverse, head-to-tail configuration by interconnection of selected ones of the fluid inlet and fluid outlet structures, to form the recess, said housing members being ~~connectable~~ connected to each other with said first collection chamber of said first housing member adjacent a free end of the second wall, and said second collection chamber of said second housing member adjacent a free end of the first wall; and

said filtration module is connectable to and separable from other of said number of filtration modules, by interconnection of selected ones of the fluid inlet and fluid outlet structures to selectively increase and decrease filtration capacity of said assembly.

10 - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein the at least one additional filtration module is of construction substantially identical to another of said filtration modules and is connectable thereto and separable therefrom without relocation of said assembly.

14. (Previously Presented) The assembly in accordance with claim 13, wherein all of the filtration modules are connectable to each other.

15. (Previously Presented) The assembly in accordance with claim 14 wherein the fluid inlet structures and outlet structures are complementarily engageable with each other to form segments of a continuous flow path.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The fluid filtration assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein addition of a filtration module to the one filtration module and removal of a filtration module from a plurality of filtration modules renders the assembly adaptable to changing filtration needs *in situ*.

18. (Previously Presented) The fluid filtration assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein all of the housing members are substantially identical to each other, and said filter units are identical to each other, and said filtration modules are substantially identical to each other, such that said assembly is adapted for economical production.

19. (Previously Presented) The fluid filtration assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein said filtration modules are adapted for interconnection and disposition

side-by-side with a bottom edge of each of said filtration modules being proximate a horizontal surface, such that said assembly is adapted to extend across a generally planar horizontal mounting surface so as to distribute weight of the assembly over an area of the surface occupied by the bottom edges of the filtration modules.

20. (Previously Presented) The fluid filtration assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein said filtration modules are separable from each other, and said filter units are separable from said filtration modules and from said housing members, and said housing members are separable from each other, to enable easy relocation of said assembly, and easy access to selected parts of the assembly for maintenance, repair, and replacement of components.

21. (Currently Amended) A fluid filtration assembly, the assembly comprising:

a selected number of filtration modules;

each of said modules comprising first and second housing members ~~connectable~~ connected together to form an open-sided recess;

a filter unit slidably inserted ~~adapted for slideable insertion~~ into the recess; and a

spring fixed to at least one of said housing members and engaged ~~engageable~~ with said filter unit to retain said filter unit in the recess;

wherein said housing members are of an L-shaped configuration and are ~~connectable~~ connected to each other to form the recess therebetween; and

first and second openings disposed in each housing member, each of said openings being ~~adapted~~ configured to serve as a selected one of a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet, and each of said openings being telescopically engaged ~~engageable~~ with an opening of another housing member to fasten the housing members together; and

said filtration modules are each ~~adapted~~ configured for connection, by interconnection of selected ones of the openings, to a further filtration module to form an assembly of a plurality of said filtration modules;

wherein said filtration modules are ~~adapted~~ configured to be disposed side-by-side on a supporting surface;

wherein said housing members are substantially identical; and wherein said filter units are substantially identical.

22. (Previously Presented) The assembly in accordance with claim 15 wherein one of the complimentarily engageable fluid inlet structures and outlet structures comprises an orifice, and the other of the complimentarily engageable inlet structures and outlet structures comprises a tubular sleeve receivable by the orifice.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S. Menon whose telephone number is 571-272-1143. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Krishnan S Menon
Primary Examiner
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5/8/07